



SHOT TALK

National Infant Immunization Week

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will celebrate National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) April 22-29, 2006. NIIW is an effort to educate parents, caregivers, providers, and communities on the importance of timely infant immunization. Over 500 cities in the United States are expected to participate in this year's observance. In addition, NIIW is working with the Pan American Health Organization to promote immunization in all countries of the Americas. Over 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere are joining together to highlight the need for routine vaccinations and to promote access to health services for infants and children.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only help protect vaccinated individuals from developing potentially serious diseases, they also safeguard entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious agents. Because immunizations have been so successful, today's parents rarely see children with the devastating effects of rubella, tetanus, polio, measles, or other vaccine preventable diseases and may not realize these diseases still threaten the health and well being of their children.

The highlight of the week will be the 9th Annual National Infant Immunization Week-Vaccines for Children Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, April 27th at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 8:00 a.m. Vaccines for Children providers are our honored guests along with immunization partners from throughout San Antonio, and state and local health officials. Dr. Jaime E. Fergie, a Pediatrician and an Infectious Disease Specialist, from the Driscoll

Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi will be the guest speaker.

Other NIIW activities are planned to promote NIIW including an open house at the Main Immunization

Clinic downtown and recognition of NIIW poster contest winners.

VFC providers are encouraged to mark their calendars for April 27 and to check the mail for their invitation. For more information on NIIW contact Vivian Flores at (210) 207-2868.

Second Annual NIIW Art Contest

In preparation for National Infant Immunization Week, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) Immunization Division held its Second Annual Immunization Art Contest. This immunization art contest allowed students the opportunity to learn about the importance of immunizations while also engaging teachers and parents in this educational process. Student interest was outstanding with close to 600 entries submitted from students in grades K-12. The SAMHD would like to recognize the following schools for their participation: Camelot Elementary, Christian Evers Elementary, Ridgeview Elementary School, Artemesia Bowden Elementary, Coronado Village Elementary, Columbia Heights Elementary, Wetmore Elementary, Northern Hills Elementary, Fenwick Elementary, Christian Heritage Elementary, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Palo Alto Elementary, Randolph Elementary, Roy P. Benavidez Elementary, Kitty Hawk Middle School, Henry Metzger Middle School, Laura Ingalls Wilder Middle School, Alan B. Sheppard Middle School, Oak Crest Intermediate School, J. Frank Dobie Junior High, Robert E. Lee High School, South San Antonio West Campus High School, and McCollum High School.

Thirteen first place winners and twelve honorable mentions were selected to have their artwork published in the SAMHD 2006 Immunization Division Calendar. The Immunization Calendar will serve as an outreach tool for educating parents, health care professionals, and the community at-large regarding the importance of timely immunizations. Included in the calendar is an immunization schedule that will aid parents in planning their child's next immunization appointment, as well as information about locations and hours of operation of area SAMHD clinics. To date, over 3,000 calendars have been distributed to mothers of newborn children in selected area hospitals

The SAMHD would like to congratulate the winners whose artwork has been selected and published in the 2006 immunization calendar. Winning artwork was selected based on originality, use of imagination,

Inside Talk

- Page 2
New Beginnings
- Page 3
Registry Benefits
- Page 4
Back-To-School
VPD Surveillance
Flu Wrap Up & Plan-
ning Ahead
- Page 5
New Trials
Rotavirus Vaccine
- Page 6
Contacts & Resources

creativity, and selection of a clear immunization message. The winning entries were submitted by: Zachary K. Harter, Christian Castano, Prue Guillen, Ellie Chagoya, Kathryn Frei, Alexis Dickinson, Mary Grace Moser, Laura Nava, Katie Blocker, Cassandra Cabalu, Trey'vianna Love, Isabel Medina, Nicholas Maldonado, Esli Tebedge, Arvin Datu, Chantelle Cabalu, Alex Zuniga, Angela Herbelin, Teja Clark, Grant Kellar, Gabriella Escalante, Catherine Atkins, Hannah Vigil, Jada Mills, and Aaron Arriaga. Zachary K. Harter's artwork is featured on the cover of the calendar as the top winner, with his artwork titled, **"Immunize America"**.

A press release is scheduled for April 13, 2006 to recognize the winners and honorable mentions and present them with their awards. The Immunization Division is pleased to announce that plans are underway for the Third Annual Immunization Art Contest scheduled from August 1, 2006 through October 1, 2006. Students interested in participating can contact Danelle Dismuke at (210) 207-4015.

New Beginnings for QA/AFIX

It's a new beginning for the QA/AFIX Team and all enrolled VFC providers who are gearing up for the 2006 assessment and site review season. There's a new twist involved with this year's assessment visits...CoCASA!! Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released Comprehensive Clinic Assessment Software Application (CoCASA) on January 6th of this year. The new software tool will be used in conjunction with the AFIX strategy to assess immunization practices within a clinic or private practice to assure children are up to date with their required immunizations (4 DTap, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3Hep B, and 1 Var) by 24 months of age. Immunization coverage level assessment software has been in existence in some form for the past 20 years. The DOS version of CASA was first released in 1992 with CASA for Windows following in 1997. An additional version of the software, VFC-CASA was made available in 2000, and Adult CASA (ACASA) was made available in 2001. CoCASA is now replacing all of these outdated systems because it can be used for immunization assessments across the lifespan. The new system is tailored to ensure that all immunizations are administered appropriately according to the ACIP Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.

CoCASA is invaluable because it serves to ensure children receive age appropriate vaccines to protect them against vaccine preventable diseases when indicated and feasible. Proper spacing and timing between vaccine doses are two of the most important issues in the appropriate use of vaccines. To ensure optimal results from each immunization, providers should follow the 2006 immunization schedule precisely. Decreasing the time intervals between

doses of the same vaccine may interfere with the vaccine's ability to generate the desired antibody response.

The mission of conducting site visits is to ensure that enrolled VFC providers are immunizing patients according to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines and adhering to VFC Program guidelines. The QA/AFIX Team is always willing to assist you in arranging an appointment for a site visit to benefit your facility. Site visits provide valuable information to providers on their immunization practice patterns and immunization rates. Each visit is designed to help identify possible barriers to immunization that may result in low vaccination coverage or missed opportunities for immunization. The primary role of the QA/AFIX Team is to assist providers in finding practical solutions to immunization related dilemmas within their facilities.

The members of the QA/AFIX team would like to thank the following providers and their staffs for participating in the QA/AFIX site visit process during this past quarter:

Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic, Generations Family Medicine, Express Med Clinic, Thousand Oaks Pediatrics, Clinica del Norte Pediatrics, Dr. Molina-Rivera, Dr. Cynthia Villareal, Christus Santa Rosa Family Health Center, Dr. Escalante, Dr. Garcia-Main, Quinones Family Medicine, SAMHD-Kenwood Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Salinas Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Eastside Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-South Flores Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Highway 90 Nursing Clinic, Somerset Independent School District-Student Health Center, Porter Medical Associates, SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic, Kellum Pediatric Clinic-Marbach, South Alamo Medical Group, SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Southwest Branch Nursing Clinic, Centro-Med South Park Medical Care Center, Trevino Family Clinic-Division, SAMHD-West End Nursing Clinic, Medical Doctors Office, and Saint Raphael Family Focused Medicine.

Congratulations are in order for the following providers that achieved outstanding immunization coverage rates during the past quarter: SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic (100%), SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic (100%), Centro-Med South Park Medical Care Center (100%), Dr. Cynthia Villareal (100%), SAMHD-Kenwood Nursing Clinic (96%), SAMHD-South Flores Nursing Clinic (95%), SAMHD-Southwest Branch Nursing Clinic (93%), SAMHD-Highway 90 Nursing Clinic (92%), SAMHD-Salinas Nursing Clinic (90%), SAMHD-Eastside Nursing Clinic (84%), and Clinica del Norte, Pediatrics (81%). These facilities worked proactively to ensure that over 80% of the children seen by their practices are up-to-date on their required immunizations of 4 DTap, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3Hep B, and 1 Var by

24 months of age. All of these facilities invested substantial efforts towards improving children's immunization coverage levels within their practices. **JOB WELL DONE!!** Keep up the great work!!

Special congratulations go out to SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic, SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic, Centro-Med South Park Medical Care Center, and Dr. Cynthia Villareal. These facilities surpassed the National Immunization Program (NIP) goal of 90% immunization coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, receiving a perfect score of 100%. In fact, this is the third consecutive year that SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic has received a perfect score! It's also the second consecutive year for SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic and Centro-Med South Park Medical Care Center. Immunizing on time is definitely a top priority for these offices. Impressive work!!



SAMHD-Pecan Valley Nursing Clinic



SAMHD-Zarzamora Nursing Clinic



Centro Med-South Park Medical Care Center

Outstanding!!!

Shot Talk



Dr. Cynthia Villareal & Staff

We would like to once again Thank our VFC providers for the outstanding dedication and commitment toward keeping the children in our community healthy. Your continued participation in the VFC Program is sincerely appreciated, we commend you all for the excellent work you do!! For information on immunization assessment in your practice call Kenya Wilson at (210) 207-3974.

SAIRS Benefits Medical Practices, Patients, Schools & Day-Care Centers

By two years of age, over 20% of the children in the U.S. typically have seen more than one healthcare provider, resulting in scattered paper medical records. Immunization information systems (IIS) help providers and families by consolidating immunization information into one reliable source. They also save money by ensuring that children get only the vaccines they need and improve office efficiency by reducing the time needed to gather and review immunization records.

The San Antonio Immunization Registry (SAIRS) is the IIS for San Antonio and Bexar County and contains the immunization histories of over 997,000 clients. SAIRS combines immunization information from all providers into one record to provide a reliable immunization history. SAIRS electronically stores all required immunization documentation and generates a universally accepted immunization record for day-care centers, schools, camps, universities, and employers. Active use of SAIRS by VFC providers has dramatically improved the immunization rates at VFC provider locations. Area schools and day cares rely heavily on SAIRS to locate missing immunizations for students and children attending day-care.

Numerous hardware and software security measures are in place to protect data and patient information in SAIRS from misuse and inappropriate access. Confidentiality and privacy policies, consistent with Health Insurance Portability (HIPAA) legislation, protect against unauthorized disclosure of immunization information.

To obtain access to SAIRS participants sign an enrollment agreement and receive password protected, read only, access to the Immunization Registry. If you are interested in access to the San Antonio Immunization Registry contact Walter Widish at (210) 207-8792.

Getting a Jump on Back to School

To avoid the rush and long lines often experienced in August, when students get ready to head back to the classroom, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will be holding four Back-To-School clinics in April and May.

Saturday, April 1 9AM-2PM, City Public Service Health Fair, Knights of Columbus Hall, 5721 Rigsby (Hwy 87)

Saturday, April 1, 9AM – 3 PM, Parent Child Incorporated Health Fair, Head Start Program Offices, 1227 Brady (Hwy 90 West and Cupples Rd.)

Saturday, May 6, 10AM-3PM, SAMHD Clinic, Alamo Dome, 100 Montana Street

Saturday, May 20, 10AM-3PM, SAMHD Clinic, Site to Be Announced

There are no fees for children who present a valid Medicaid or CHIP card, SAMHD will bill Medicaid or CHIP vaccine administrative fees. Other children eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program will be charged a \$5.00 administrative fee for each shot received. For all other children, the full price will be charged by SAMHD for each vaccination received and parents will be responsible for filing a claim with insurance companies.

Providers are encouraged to plan ahead and urge parents to schedule back to school check ups, and immunizations, in May - July to beat the rush. For more information on Back-To-School immunization events contact Clark Petty at (210) 207-2869.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance

Surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases is an ongoing public health activity that provides a systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data. The dissemination of, and use of, the data interpretations is key to the function of surveillance. The main purpose of surveillance has always been disease control and prevention.

The Department of State Health Services in Austin primarily relies upon a passive system for surveillance of infectious disease. Physicians, other health care providers, hospitals, laboratories, blood banks, school officials, and others, who diagnose or are aware of cases of notifiable diseases, are required by law to report those cases appropriately. Specific regulations covering the reporting process are included in the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act (Section 81 of the Health and Safety Code), and the Texas Administrative Code (Article 97, Title 25).

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/dpn/issues/dpn59n01.pdf>

Surveillance includes learning about contacts within group-based activities and individual-based activities which is conducted by the Surveillance Section of the Immunization Division for the early detection of disease in individuals followed by intervention steps to prevent health complications. The importance of surveillance is the rapid case identification, goals to reduce disease, use of case definitions (clinical description and case classifications), epidemiological data collection during case investigation, activities to enhance surveillance, and activities within clusters of individuals. The anticipated outcome of surveillance activities is to reduce disease and to evaluate the impact of the prevention and control measures.

The SAMHD, Immunization Division Surveillance Nurse, Jerry Werling, RN, uses SAMHD and community resources to investigate and complete vaccine-preventable disease reports. For more information on surveillance and disease reporting contact Jerry Werling, RN at (210) 207-2085.

05-06 Flu Season Winds Down & Planning for Next Season Begins

The SAMHD clinics began offering influenza and pneumococcal immunization on October 15, 2005. The season began with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that shots be limited until October 24, 2005 to people who were considered at-risk. After that date, vaccine has remained available to anyone 6 months of age or older. From October 2005 through March 2006, the SAMHD Immunization Division administered over 33,500 influenza and 1,500 pneumonia immunizations at SAMHD clinics and 100 other one-day outreach clinics throughout the city. SAMHD clinics continue to offer flu shots. According to SAMHD Epidemiologist Roger Sanchez, "To date (March 14, 2006) the San Antonio area has experienced an exceptionally long flu season, 5 months thus far, beginning the later part of November and continuing to this date."

On February 17, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met to select the influenza virus strains for the composition of the influenza vaccine for use in the 2006-07 U.S. influenza season. The panel recommended that vaccines to be used in the 2006-07 season in the U.S. contain the following:

- an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus;
- an A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like virus (A/Wisconsin/67/2005 and A/Hiroshima/52/2005 strains);
- a B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus (B/Malaysia/2506/2004 and B/Ohio/1/2005 strains)

Planning for the 2006-2007 flu season began early with pre-booking of flu products on January 31, 2006. **Providers interested in purchasing influenza vaccine are urged to place their orders now**, if they have not already done so. For Vaccine ordering information go to www.aafp.org/x41079.xml, more flu information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>. You can also contact Sandra Hermosa, LMSW, at (210) 207-2084 regarding flu planning.

New Clinical Trials Begin In 2006

Combination Vaccine Study

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) has begun recruitment on a research study that involves the use of two investigational vaccines. Pentacel™ is a vaccine that contains diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (DTaP), inactivated poliovirus (IPV), and Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). HCPDT-IPV is the same vaccine as Pentacel™ without the Hib component. Pentacel™ has been licensed and used in Canada since 1997 and over 7 million doses have been given. These two new combination vaccines have not been licensed for use in the United States. The children in this study will also receive 3 FDA-approved vaccines: DAPTACEL®, IPOL®; and ActHIB®. The study objective is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of different combination vaccines when used in infants and toddlers.

Eligible subjects include healthy infants, 2 months of age with at least 36 weeks of gestation at delivery. Infants must have also received 1 dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine. The study consists of 7 visits over a 16-month period and blood samples will be obtained from all enrolled subjects. All subjects will receive recommended vaccinations through the age of 15 to 18 months. Parent or guardian must be willing to comply with study guidelines. Subjects participating in the study will be financially compensated and offered recommended immunizations free of charge. For more information please contact Marcela Martinez at (210) 207-3968.

Booster Dose Study

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will be conducting an investigational research study of Hib-MenCY-TT. HibMenCY-TT is Haemophilus influenza type b and Neisseria meningitidis serogroups C and Y-tetanus toxoid conjugate vaccine combined. The objective of this study is to determine the consistency of 3 manufacturing lots of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Hib-MenCY-TT with respect to immunogenicity and safety compared to the control vaccine ActHIB® when co-administered with Pediarix® to healthy infants at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The study will also evaluate the safety of the booster dose of Hib-MenCY-TT vaccine at 12 to 15 months of age as compared to

PedvaxHIB®, as well as the immunogenicity when co-administered with M-M-R II and Varivax.

Eligible subjects include healthy infants, 2 months of age with at least 36 weeks of gestation at delivery. Infants must have also received only one dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine. The study consists of 6 visits over a 20-month period of time. All subjects will receive recommended vaccinations through the age of 15 to 18 months. Parent or guardian must be willing to comply with study guidelines. Subjects participating in the study will be financially compensated and offered recommended immunizations free of charge. For more information please contact Julie Alvarado at (210) 207-3965.

CDC's Advisory Committee Recommends New Vaccine to Prevent Rotavirus

Rotavirus is the leading cause of gastroenteritis in infants and young children in the United States and worldwide. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during their meeting in Atlanta on February 21, 2006 voted to recommend a newly licensed vaccine to protect against rotavirus, a viral infection that can cause severe diarrhea, vomiting, fever and dehydration (gastroenteritis) in infants and young children.

The ACIP recommendation is for infants to receive three doses of the oral vaccine at two, four, and six months of age. The new vaccine, RotaTeq™ (marketed by Merck and Company), is the only vaccine approved in the United States for prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis (vomiting and diarrhea).

"Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe gastroenteritis in infants and young children worldwide" said Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of CDC's National Immunization Program. "Nearly every child in the United States is infected with rotavirus by age five and most will develop gastroenteritis, leading to a large number of physician visits, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations, with a few deaths. Therefore, this vaccine will help reduce one of our most common and potentially severe childhood illnesses."

Each year, rotavirus is responsible for more than 400,000 doctor visits, more than 200,000 emergency room visits, 55,000 to 70,000 hospitalizations, and between 20 and 60 deaths in U.S. children younger than 5 years of age, leading to about \$300 million in direct medical costs and \$900 million in total societal costs. In developing countries, rotavirus is a major cause of childhood deaths, causing more than half a million deaths each year in children younger than five years of age.

Rotavirus vaccine will not prevent gastroenteritis caused by other viruses, but is very effective against rotavirus disease. Studies indicate the vaccine will prevent about 74 percent of all rotavirus cases and about 98 percent of the most severe cases, including 96 percent of rotavirus cases requiring hospitalization. In trials, the vaccine prevented 59 percent of all causes of gastroenteritis hospitalizations, which highlights the important role of rotavirus in severe childhood gastroenteritis.

In 1999, RotaShield®, a different rotavirus vaccine, was withdrawn from the market after it was found to be associated with a rare type of bowel obstruction called intussusception. The risk of intussusception for RotaTeq™, the new vaccine, was evaluated in a large scale trial of over 70,000 children. In that study, there was no association found between the RotaTeq™ and an increased risk of intussusception and it did not cause fever to the extent caused by RotaShield®.

"This is a different vaccine than the vaccine removed from the market because of problems with bowel obstructions," said Dr. Schuchat. "It is made differently and was not associated with intussusception in a large clinical trial. Nevertheless, we will continue to very closely monitor this vaccine to ensure there are no problems. At the same time it's important to remember that the known benefits of the vaccine far outweigh any known risks."

CDC will conduct a large study to rapidly detect any association between RotaTeq™ and intussusception as well as other potential adverse events through its Vaccine Safety Datalink Program that evaluates vaccine safety in approximately 90,000 infants every year. CDC and FDA will also regularly monitor reports of intussusception and other serious adverse events reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Merck has also committed to conducting a post-licensure study of approximately 44,000 children. In addition, the manufacturer will report cases of intussusception to FDA within 15 days of receiving them.

Recommendations of the ACIP become recommendations of CDC once they are accepted by the director of CDC and the Secretary of Health and Human Services and are published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The ACIP passed a resolution to include rotavirus vaccine in the VFC Program on February 22, 2006. The next step for rotavirus vaccine to become accessible thru the SAMHD VFC Program is for CDC to negotiate a contract with Merck and include RotaTeq™ on the federal vaccine contract. The SAMHD VFC Program will notify providers when the vaccine becomes available. For more information on rotavirus and the rotavirus vaccine, visit www.cdc.gov.

Source: February, 21 2006, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Press Release

City Holiday Calendar



Good Friday, April 14, 2006

Fiesta San Jacinto Day, April 28, 2006

Memorial Day, May 29, 2006

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Danelle Dismuke, MPH	
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Javier Salazar, RN	

Love them. Protect them.

Immunization Resource Sites

SAMHD: www.sanantonio.gov/health

DSHS: www.dshs.state.tx.us

CDC: www.cdc.gov/nip

IAC: www.immunize.org

Vaccine Education Center: <http://vaccine.chop.edu>
American Academy of Pediatrics: www.aap.org

Immunize them.

